



**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
AND ELECTION OF SPECIES
U.S. APP. NO. 10/074,044**

Applicant submits that if any of the elected claims is found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A method for storing and securely managing important information for a user in a database, comprising:

storing synchronizing information, which changes when a portion of the important information is updated, in the database together with the important information, and encrypting the synchronizing information;

distributively storing the encrypted synchronizing information in a plurality of predetermined places; and

combining and decrypting the synchronizing information stored in the predetermined places and determining whether the combined synchronizing information is identical to the synchronizing information stored in the database.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the encrypting the synchronizing information comprises encrypting key-data used for encrypting and decrypting the synchronizing information.

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3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the distributively storing the encrypted synchronizing information comprises distributively storing encrypted key-data in said predetermined places.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the encrypting the synchronizing information comprises encrypting the updated important information.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the encrypting the synchronizing information comprises encrypting key-data used for encrypting and decrypting the important information.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the distributively storing the encrypted synchronizing information comprises distributively storing the encrypted key-data in predetermined places.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the distributively storing the encrypted synchronizing information comprises distributively storing encrypted important information in said plurality of predetermined places.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the combining, and decrypting the synchronizing information stored in the predetermined places and determining whether the combined synchronizing information is identical to the synchronizing information stored in the database comprises combining and decrypting the important information stored in the predetermined places and determining whether the decrypted important information is substantially identical to the important information stored in the database.

9-13 (cancelled)

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14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said important information comprises Digital Rights Management (DRM) information that indicates a number of use times permitted to a user, so as to enable effective performance of DRM.